THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Namrup III, which is the main urea plant of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC) at Namrup, was under annual shut down from the end of April 1995 to mid June 1995. The operations of the Namrup units of HFC have inter-alia been constrained by inadequate supply of natural gas. The problem was recently aggravated by the flooding of certain oil fields in the region. The matter of augmentation of gas supplies to these units through short term and long term measures has been taken up at the inter-ministerial level.

Import of Butter Oil

2501. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:
SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to import butter Oil;

(b) if so, the total quantum of butter oil imported during 1994-95;

(c) the total quantum of butter Oil proposed to be imported during 1995-96;

(d) the countries from which the butter Oil is being imported; and

(e) the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (e) The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has imported the following quantities of Butter Oil during 1994-95 and 1995-96:

1994-95 4305 MT

1995-96 3275 MT

(upto 16.7.1995)

Another 1635 MT is under import by the NDDB. These imports were made from Australia, New Zealand, the EEC countries and the U.S.A. Further imports will depend upon international prices and the domestic supply scenerio.

Butter Oil has been made freely importable since May, 1995.

Finished Steel and Pig Iron Production of PSUs

2502. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the finished steel and pig iron production of Public Sector Undertakings under his Ministry, including SAIL, VSP and other Steel Plants during the year 1994-95;

(b) the programme to increase their production during the next three years;

(c) the quantum of iron ore required to meet the present and increased production in the next three years;

(d) the quantum of metallurgical coal required to meet the present and the increased requirement of steel production; and

(e) the quantum of this coal expected to be available indigenously and how much will be imported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Steel presently producing steel and pig iron are the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL). Their production of finished steel and pig iron in 1994-95 was approximately 8.19 MT and 2 MT respectively and it is expected to be about 10.5 MT and about 2 MT respectively in the next three years i.e. in 1997-98.

(c) to (e): The quantum of iron ore and metallurgical coal required to meet the present i.e. 1995-96 level of production is about 26.7 MT and 20 MT respectively. This is expected to go up to approximately 29 MT of iron ore and 21.4 MT of metallurgical coal to meet the production level in 1997-98. SAIL and RINL import metallurgical coal on quantitative and qualitative considerations. The level of imports in 1997-98 would, therefore, depend not only on the quantum of indigenous availability but also on qualitative considerations.